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REPORT NO.

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IN 240 FAX 5

TOPIC

77th Medium AAA Regiment

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EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to 18 June 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

21 January 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

SOURCE

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2. The regiment was organized into the headquarters; a regimental headquarters unit with headquarters platoon, reconnaissance platoon and signal platoon; the 1st and 2d Batteries; a training battery; and supply services. (2)
3. The regiment was under the command of Major Andor Jecsay. Other officers at the headquarters were Senior Lieutenant Janos Haros, political officer; Junior Lieutenant Czinkovszky (fnu), gas officer; three physicians; Janos Horvath; Senior Lieutenant Dezsos (fnu); and Junior Lieutenant Lieszoros (fnu). The regimental headquarters consisted of the following sections:
Political Section. Headed by Lieutenant Bertalan Penczner, who was subordinate to the regiment's political officer and had the title regimental agitator; and including three other political officers, among them Junior Lieutenant Foktoe (fnu), and two political NCOs.
Operation Section. Staffed by three officers, including Lieutenants Tompa (fnu) and Kondakov (fnu), and two NCOs as clerks.
Training Section. Staffed by 1 officer and 3 or 4 NCOs.
Finance Section. Staffed by 2 officers and 2 or 3 NCOs.
Classified Documents Section. Staffed by 2 officers.
Ordnance Section. Consisting of 1 officer, about 15 ordnance NCOs, 5 or 6 motor vehicle mechanics and about 30 drivers.
4. The 1st Battalion was organized into the battalion headquarters and the 1st through 3d Batteries. Its officers included Senior Lieutenant Larkus Hajnal, battalion commander; Lieutenant Istvan Palfi, political officer; and Lieutenant Kalman Csik, adjutant. There were 2 NCOs and 1 EM as clerks at the headquarters. A signal platoon and a reconnaissance platoon were directly subordinate to the battalion headquarters. The signal platoon was led by an NCO and organized into a radio section of about 10 men and a telephone section of about 15 men. The reconnaissance platoon was led by an NCO and had a strength of about 10 men. The 1st Battery,

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like the other batteries of the 1st Battalion, was organized into a battery headquarters, 1 firing platoon, 1 fire control platoon and 1 headquarters platoon; with Junior Lieutenants Fischer (fnu) and Jozsef Szivak as 1st Battery commander and platoon leader respectively. Each battery headquarters consisted of the battery commander, the political NCO and the first sergeant. Each firing platoon was organized into a platoon headquarters with the platoon leader and his deputy; and into the 1st through 4th section, each consisting of a gun crew under the authorized strength of 1 section leader and 6 men. Some sections had only 4 gunners besides the section leader. Each fire control platoon consisted of a platoon headquarters with the platoon leader and his deputy, the fire direction section, the range-finder section and the radio direction-finder section. The fire direction section consisted of the section leader, who was simultaneously assistant platoon leader, and 8 or 9 men. None of the batteries of the 1st Bn had the 11 men plus 1 section leader required for operating the ballistic director. The range-finder section consisted of 1 section leader and 3 men and the radio direction-finder section consisted of 1 section leader and 4 men. The platoon headquarters was organized into 1 platoon headquarters detail, 1 reconnaissance section, 1 radio section and 1 telephone section. The platoon headquarters detail consisted of the 1 NCO platoon leader, 1 storekeeper, 1 armorer, 1 company aid man, and 1 clerk. The reconnaissance section consisted of 1 section leader and 3 men; the radio section consisted of 1 leader and 2 or 3 men; and the telephone section of 1 leader and 3 or 4 men. No details on the organization of the 2d Bn could be supplied. Officers [redacted] 25X1 included Captain Istvan Szabo, commanding officer of 2d Bn; Senior Lieutenant Janos Kemones, political officer of 2d Bn; Lieutenant Peter Kuesi, commanding officer of 2d Battery of the 1st Bn; Lieutenant Laszlo Hodi, commanding officer of the 3d Battery of the 1st Bn; Junior Lieutenant Arpas (fnu), at the headquarters of the 1st Bn; Lieutenant Laszlo Cserna, platoon leader in the 2d Battery of the 1st Bn; and Junior Lieutenants Lukics (fnu) and Rotyk (fnu), platoon leaders in a battery of the 2d Bn.

5. The regimental training battery was commanded by Lieutenant Pal Magyar. Its organization was not known.
6. The rear services, under the command of Captain Pal (fnu) had a strength of 4 officers, 4 or 5 NCOs as clerks, 1 mess sergeant, 25 cooks and 10 to 12 craftsmen.
7. The organization and strengths of the components of the ~~77th~~ AA officers' school, [redacted] prior to 1 March 1951, differed from that of the 77th AAA regt in the following respects:
Gun Section. One section leader, 6 gunners and 1 driver.
Fire Control Section. One section leader, 11 men and 1 driver.
Reconnaissance Section. One section leader, 3 men, 1 driver and 1 motorcycle messenger.
Radio Section. One section leader, 6 men and 1 driver.
Telephone Section. One section leader, 3 men and 1 driver.
Battery. Allegedly had an additional heavy AA machine gun platoon and an ammunition supply unit.
8. Officers and NCO's who served as platoon-leaders of the 1st Bn of the regiment were armed with 7.62-mm pistols of model M-43. Personnel of reconnaissance components were armed with submachine guns, and the remaining NCOs and EM with model M-43 rifles. Each battery of the battalion had four medium 85-mm AA guns of model M-43. Source believed that the 2d Bn and the training battery had the same weapons as the 1st Bn. The fire control equipment of the 2d Battery included 1 ballistic director, 1 model M-43-BI observation telescope, 1 model M-43-DJA range finder and 1 model M-42 artillery compass.

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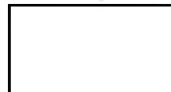
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9. Vehicles which source observed with the regiment included about 15 three-ton GIC trucks, 5 or 6 Raba and Csepel trucks, 7 or 8 Dodge trucks and 2 or 3 GAZ sedans.
10. Most of the enlisted personnel serving with the regiment were inducted on 20 October 1950 and about half were of the 1929 class while the other half were of the 1930 class. Senior enlisted men belonged primarily to the 1927 and 1928 classes. Despite persistent rumors that the period of active service was only two years, there were several soldiers who had been inducted as early as April 1949 and were still waiting for their discharge. About 90 percent of the enlisted personnel of the 2d Battery, which included three volunteers, came from the Sopron (F 48/X 63) area. Seven men of the battery were card-carrying Communists and two were Communist Party candidates. About 80 percent of the enlisted personnel seemed to be anti-Communist. Clothing was good and food was ample. (3)
11. The recruits who were inducted on 20 October 1950, went through six weeks of basic training, followed by special training which was usually held for the specialists from all batteries at one a time. For example, the reconnaissance training included six sections from the batteries of both battalions and sections from the battalion headquarters and the regimental headquarters. The reconnaissance sections practiced orientation marches, reconnaissance of gun emplacements and following an azimuth course, twice a week in the vicinity of Budapest. Each member of the reconnaissance sections carried a map in the scale of 1:50,000 and a Bézard compass. The range-finder sections were trained together with the range-finder sections of another medium AAA regiment stationed in the borough of Budafok. The training took place near the barracks installation of a light AAA regiment at Budapest-Ferihegy airfield. All radio and telephone sections of the regiment were trained collectively, while the fire control personnel and the gun crews were trained at battery level. The personnel of the 2d Battery perfected moving into firing position from the line of march within less than one minute. The radio direction-finder sections received no training because there was no equipment available. All batteries went to the Rakosi drill ground once a week for drill, gas-defense training and practice with infantry weapons. (4)
12. Between 2 March and 18 June 1951, three major exercises at regimental level were held. The first, which took place in late March, was designed as a practice movement by rail, with the entraining and detraining taking place at a railroad station in Ujpest. In the second exercise conducted in the area east of Budakalász (Q 48/H 53) from 15 to 17 May, the regiment moved by road to a bivouac site, occupied gun positions and practiced aiming at a Hungarian military aircraft of type DC-3. The third exercise was held in the F6t (Q 48/H 63)-Csonád (Q 48/H 64)-Oerszentmiklós (Q 48/H 74) area during one week in early June. Source learned from conversations that the exercise was designed primarily for the training of battery commanders. During the exercise, the 2d Battery was to protect the Csonád railroad station against air attack. The exercise also included record firing with infantry weapons. The political NCO of the 2d Battery told of an order requiring all political officers and enlisted men holding political assignments to be experts in the firing of pistols and submachine guns in order not to lose their special status. During the week of the exercise, the special service unit of the 1st Bn arranged for a well-attended night of entertainment in order that soldiers and civilians might become acquainted. During a meeting for officers and NCOs in early June 1951, it was announced that the entire regiment would move to Nagyoroszi (Q 49/H 68) for record firing from 20 June to 20 September. A large number of reservists were to be inducted for this training period. About half of the 85-mm shells stored in the Mátyás Barracks were shipped to Nagyoroszi as early as the beginning of June. Personnel of the light AAA regiment in Budapest-Ferihegy arrived to guard the installations of the 2d Battery.
13. The division headquarters, to which the 77th Medium AAA Regt was subordinate, was also stationed in the Mátyás Barracks, Budapest. It was located in a new,

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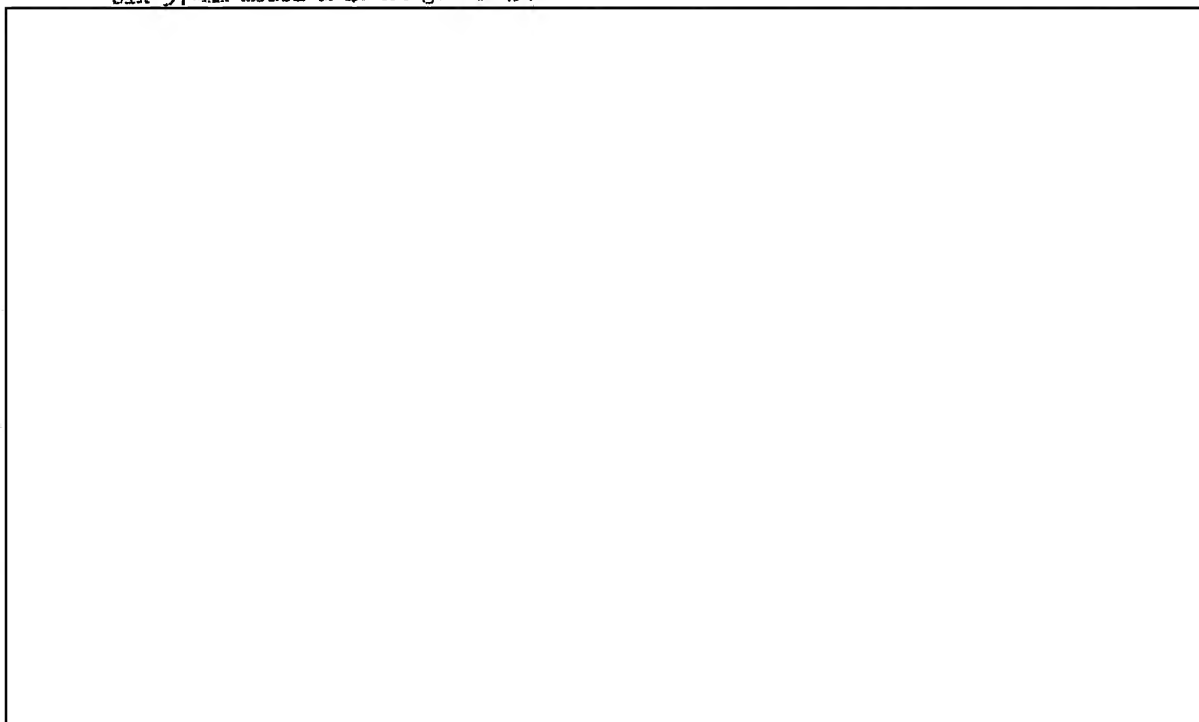
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three-story barracks building, about 50 x 20 meters, which fronted on Robert Karoly Ring. The first floor of the building contained the headquarters and the classified documents section, and the second and third floors were used for officers' billets. The headquarters was staffed by about 30 officers and 120 NCOs and EM. It could be reached by phone through the telephone exchange in the barracks installation, telephone No 204-889 by asking for extension 24 and stating the cover name, Oltar. Officers at the division headquarters included Lieutenant Colonel Laszlo Koernyei, commanding officer; Captains Mihaly Schering and Simon (fnu), political and deputy political officer; and Lieutenant Colonel Piri (fnu). [redacted]

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[redacted] the division headquarters was subordinate to the National Air Defense Command on Mester Street, Budapest. Besides the 77th Medium AAA Regt, the division headquarters had another medium AAA regiment in Budafok and a light AAA regiment in Ferihogy. Gunners of the light AAA regiment said that their battery was equipped with six 37-mm model M-48 AA guns. (5)

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